Trump Extends Deadline for Striking Iranian Energy Infrastructure Into April

March 26, 2026 **by Dan McCue**

The White House on March 26, 2026. (Photo by Dan McCue)

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that he is extending his deadline for striking Iranian energy infrastructure into April — at the request of the Iranian government.

"As per Iranian Government request, please let this statement serve to represent that I am pausing the period of Energy Plant destruction by 10 Days to Monday, April 6, 2026, at 8 P.M., Eastern Time," Trump wrote in a Truth Social post shortly before attending a Greek Independence Day Celebration in the East Room of the White House.

"Talks are ongoing and, despite erroneous statements to the contrary by the Fake News Media, and others, they are going very well," he said.

On Monday, Trump announced a **five-day delay** on strikes on Iranian energy facilities that he had threatened to target last weekend.

At the time he said he decided on his initial pause because of the "very good and productive conversations" U.S. negotiators were having with unspecified leaders in Iran, talks he said could lead to a "complete and total resolution of our hostilities in the Middle East."

Iranian media later reported no such talks are taking place, citing unnamed Iranian foreign ministry officials.

During a cabinet meeting at the White House on Thursday, U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff said there are "strong signs"he and fellow negotiator Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, will be able to convince Iran that it has no better option than to accept a 15-point plan the Trump administration has offered for ending the war.

"Against [the] backdrop of our compelling military successes in [Operation] Epic Fury, we have had multiple reach-outs from the region and others who want to play a role in ending this conflict peacefully," Witkoff said.

He went on to describe the 15-point plan as a "framework for a peace deal" and said it was presented to Iran through Pakistani mediators.

"This has resulted in strong and positive messaging," he said.

"If we can convince Iran that this is the inflection point, with no good alternatives for them other than more death and destruction, [and] we have strong signs that this is a possibility," Witkoff continued, adding, "If a deal happens, it will be great for the country of Iran, for the entire region and the world at large."

The envoy described Iran as "looking for an off-ramp" following the president's threat to destroy its energy infrastructure.

"You have instructed us that your preference is always peace and that we should make that our priority. We have delivered that message, along with the 15 points for peace. We have told Iran one last thing, 'Don't miscalculate again,'" Witkoff said.

Trump himself, in the past 10 hours or so, has observed that he's finding Iranian negotiators "very different" and "strange."

"They are 'begging' us to make a deal, which they should be doing since they have been militarily obliterated, with zero chance of a comeback, and yet they publicly state that they are only 'looking at our proposal,'" he said.

He then added: "WRONG!!! They better get serious soon, before it is too late, because once that happens, there is NO TURNING BACK, and it won't be pretty!"

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